a number of carbon atoms less than or equal to 10.

12. (New) The process according to claim 6, wherein the columns comprises at least three columns.

IN THE ABSTRACT

Please delete the abstract of the disclosure submitted December 14, 2002, and substitute therefor a new text as follows:

A process for separating mixtures of hydrocarbon isomers on molecular sieves, including providing columns which include molecular sieves and function alternately as secondary adsorption, primary adsorption, and desorption devices, feeding the mixtures of hydrocarbon isomers to a column functioning as the primary adsorption device for adsorbing isomers with greater selectivity towards the molecular sieves, feeding effluent of the mixtures from the column functioning as the primary adsorption device to a column functioning as the secondary adsorption device for adsorbing remaining isomers with greater selectivity, discharging isomers with a lower selectivity from the column functioning as the secondary adsorption device and a desorbing agent therein, feeding a desorbing agent to the column functioning as the desorption device, discharging isomers with a greater selectivity towards the molecular sieves and the desorbing agent in the column functioning as the desorption device.

REMARKS

Favorable consideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.